

**Slate Valley Unified Union School District  
Innovation Committee Meeting  
Monday, June 3, 2019  
Fair Haven Union High School  
ARSU Conference Room  
5:30 PM  
Approved Minutes**

Attending: Black River Design, John Hemmelgarn & Andrew McCullough; Linda Peltier, Brooke Olsen Farrell, Peter Clarke, Chris Cole, Josh Hardt, Walter Ripley, Rick Wilson, Mark Grossarth, Jason Rasco, Casey O'Meara, Peter Stone, Tim Smith, Mike Bache, Julie Finnegan, Bonnie Lenihan, Minute Taker

Call to Order: Brooke Olsen Farrell called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Approval of Agenda: Linda Peltier made a motion to approve the agenda, Jason Rasco seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes - May 1, 2019: Tim Smith made a motion to approve the minutes of May 1, 2019; this was seconded by Linda Peltier; Motion carried.

New Business: Peter Clark introduced Black River Design and reflected where we are in the process.

- a. Presentation by Black River Design - Architectural Drawings for HSMS:
- b. Committee Review and Discussion of Drawings (see discussion above)
- c. Review/Revision of Project Talking Points. (see discussion of above).

John the Architect shared that there is nothing on the plans that can't be changed. He reiterated that the drawings were developed based on words (Educational Specifications) that this committee provided. John said if Black River Design did not get it right we can continue to adjust and change plans until they reflect the thoughts of the committee. John shared that Black River Design needs to maintain the same function that the committee had intended in all the processes that this was intending. Architects handed out a blueprint of existing space (depicted by the color magenta), the blue is single story middle school and this would be an add on. The magenta is two story existing building.

Major Focus points: There would be two separate entrances for HS and MS. There would be existing HS student parking. There is separate Middle School parking. Middle School pick up and drop off site is a bit larger as they tend to drop off and pick up more students at this level. John said we need to identify a spot for stormwater treatment spot/run off. We need to think about where the green house and gardens could be located. Additional field space for soccer, baseball, football and track events were planned for.

Next phase, John is recommending the hire of a Civil Engineer to help with future planning of things like the best place to build the stormwater treatment area. To be considered: Will high school and middle school have a bit of a staggered dismissal, even by a few minutes, this would help with traffic flow. Suggest solving Middle School parking by avoiding green space. We may need additional soccer fields and middle school ball fields. A middle school soccer field might fit inside the track. Discussion about adding additional parking on right side of Middle school and elongate parking towards woods and move the stormwater runoff. There is discussion that middle school fields and games could be held at the FHGS. Consideration could be given to moving the ropes course and adding a field there.

After exploring the outside blueprints, John showed identified inside space in the blueprints. Yellow color is high school space, orange is shared space, though at different times, such as theater/performance space, gymnasiums, kitchen, music room, etc.. Blue color identified current Central Office locations. Red colors are identified for Middle School classes. One kitchen located between high school cafeteria and middle school cafeteria. There was discussion of placing the greenhouse on top of the music program second floor, close to the science labs.

Rick Wilson suggested that we don't need to enlarge the second gym. Others on the committee felt the larger gym was needed, we have multiple teams practicing at all the times. We also would be able to open up to community for events. Rick expressed concern about the scope of the project and wonders about the real need for the Theater/Auditorium space. Peter Clark shared that it is a gathering space. Could be utilized for chorus and band concerts as well as theater program. Peter Clark suggested making a list of options for a space large enough to accommodate all that is available . There was suggestion to call it a performance or exhibition space. It could be a Community option for many events. There was a lot of rich discussion about the need for this space. Arts is every bit as important as the sporting events. Discussed adding bathrooms and reducing team space sizes throughout Middle and High School and especially in the common areas near gym and Performance Space. The

installation of single stall non gendered bathrooms was discussed. Architect also discussed a new idea in bathrooms which is a wall of sinks outside of bathroom stall in the traffic areas.

There was a brief discussion of some very rough estimates on costs of this proposed project. The final costs of course will depend on cost of materials once project has begun and the design that is settled on. Some very preliminary figures include the following:

\$350 per square feet construction - new approximately \$20,000,000.00

\$200 per square feet existing construction -renovations - \$10,000,000.00

Outside site work - \$4,000,000.00

10% Contingency fund

Expenses to pay Architects, Engineers, Clerk of the Works

Expenses related to Testing, costs to rid existing building of asbestos, permits, moving costs, property insurance, furniture for new spaces.

Overall cost prediction for work that must be done at FHUHS due to existing infrastructure problems and all the renovations and addition for Middle School would total roughly \$40,000,000.00.

These figures do not address the needs of the other schools within Slate Valley. For example at Orwell there is the large multi purpose room which would be added to the existing school footprint, plus other needed deferred maintenance that needs to be addressed at all other buildings within Slate Valley at FHGS, CES, BVS and significant renovation at CVS if voters decide not to approve the Middle School addition on the site of FHUHS. There was significant discussion about the value of expanding the FHUHS project to include the Middle School and the benefits of this. There is also new talk at the State Level of further combinations of School Districts. We could be prime candidates to receive and accommodate other districts into Slate Valley as we are one of the largest.

There was also discussion that almost 70% of our tax base is income sensitive depending on the town. All new school construction going on around the state is assessed to us as taxpayers. For example the large school renovation being completed

in Burlington we will all pay a portion due to the funding structure of our state. We should also take advantage of having other communities help fund our construction project before the funding structure changes again.

Peter Clark handed out the talking points the committee has discussed in terms of why we should consider the proposed Innovation project and how we will talk about this to the voters in the community.

The Agenda for June 24th: Review and Revise and Finish Talking Points, send your thoughts directly to Brooke. Timeline of how to share this out with faculty, staff, Board and Community will be developed at the next meeting on June 24th when we meet prior to the Board Meeting at 5:30 p.m..

d. Next Steps: (Hire a Civil Engineer)

i. HS/Middle School Sub Committee Review of Current Drawings

li. Summer Planning and Meeting Schedule

Community Input: Develop Timeline to share out plans after tonight's suggested revisions are made.

Adjourn: Peter Stone made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m., this was seconded by Linda Peltier and motion carried.

Next Slate Valley Innovation Committee Mtg. - June 24th at 5:30 at FHGS

Submitted by Bonnie Lenihan